



April 29, 2007.

To : Dr. Yelena G. Gakh
US patent & Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re : Application No. 10/675,764
Art Unit 1743

Dear Dr. Yelena G. Gakh :

In response to the Office action dated 04/02/2007, we, the applicant, disagree with your requirement for restriction and would like to traverse according to 37CFR 1.143 on the ground that the present inventions and species are not patentably distinct based on the following reasons:

1. The scope of the invented method is the analysis of carboxylic acids by mass spectrometry, not the method of preparing different products from carboxylic acids.
2. The mode of operation of the method is to convert carboxylic acids into compounds of higher molecular weight, both with a stable isotope labeled reagent and with a non-labeled version of that reagent. These 2 reagents will ensure similar obtained signals in the mass spectrometric analysis, the signals of similar mass fragments.
3. With the above scope and mode of operation, the mass signals obtained for different reagents will be different, but are similar in mass fragment patterns. These signals are obvious variants of one another.

In the invented method, carboxylic acids of the general formulas R_1COOH are converted to species of the general formulas R_1COOR_2 for the purpose of mass spectrometric identification and quantification. By convention of organic chemistry, compounds of the general formulas R_1COOR_2 , wherein R_1 is an alkyl or aryl or heteroatom cyclic or non-cyclic group and R_2 is an alkyl group, are called carboxylic acid esters. In this context we would like to identify compounds of the formulas R_1COOR_2 as the elected species for the prosecution of the patent claims. We ask that this election of species for the present invention be made with traverse. All members of the above elected species are not patentably distinct. They are all variants of ester R_1COOR_2 .

We ask that the "Claims" section, the "Details description of the invention" section, and the "Abstract of the disclosure" section are allowed to be amended to reflect the elected invention. In these sections the added text are underlined and the deleted text are in brackets.

Sincerely and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Hoa D.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hoa D. Nguyen
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